



General information on ISR

The Institute for Urban and Regional Research (ISR) is one of the leading Austrian institutes dealing with the structural analysis of migration and the immigrant population in Austria. It has a long tradition in this subject reaching back as far as the early 1980s when the ISR carried out one of the first Austrian studies on the so-called guest-workers recruited in Yugoslavia and Turkey in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In the following years a large number of publications and research activities dealt with migration to Austria, its demographic and societal consequences and the different paths of immigrant integration into Austrian society. ISR migration research has always been guided by the specific focus of the institute on urban and regional issues. Since the early 1990s, the regional focus has been on re-emerging migration patterns in Central Europe after the fall of the Iron Curtain. With regard to urban studies, the ISR has been particularly interested in residential segregation, housing policies and interethnic neighborhood relations in Vienna compared to other European cities. The ISR has been an IMISCOE member since 2004.

Spin-offs of ISR's IMISCOE network activities

CLIP (Network of European Cities for Local Integration Policies for Migrants) (2006-2010)

CLIP compared and evaluated local integration policies in more than 20 European cities with a view to identifying best practice models for local integration policies. For each of the four research modules, the project teams examined one specific issue relevant to the integration of migrants in relation to the role of local authorities: housing, equality and diversity, intercultural policies and intergroup relations and ethnic entrepreneurship. The cooperation of municipal stakeholders and scientists enabled local authorities to learn from each other and to deliver a more effective integration policy. The results were presented at numerous international, high-level conferences. The policy-relevant outcome of each module was compiled to produce recommendations for local, national and EU policy makers.

IDEA (Mediterranean and Eastern European Countries as New Immigration Destinations in the European Union) (2007-2009) – Web: <http://www.idea6fp.uw.edu.pl/>

IDEA analyzed how Europe has changed from a net emigration to a net immigration area in two older and four newer immigration countries (Austria, France, Italy, Portugal, Greece and Spain) with a view to projecting future migration patterns in Europe. The project team developed a cycle model for the analysis and prognosis of international migration on the level of states. The results were published by the Amsterdam University Press.

GEITONIES (Generating Interethnic Tolerance and Neighborhood Integration in European Urban Space) (2008-2011)

GEITONIES compared interethnic relations in 18 diverging neighborhoods in six European cities: Lisbon, Vienna, Amsterdam, Bilbao, Thessaloniki and Warsaw. The research was innovative in its approach of focusing not only on the immigrant populations of urban areas, but on the whole population, regardless of socio-cultural or ethnic background. Thus, it took a more inter-cultural approach to exploring aspects of social cohesion in the city. The main research objective was to investigate how and in which contexts interdependencies – be they of a consensual or conflicting nature – develop between different individuals/groups in multi-ethnic neighborhoods. The specific role that place and neighborhood factors play in developing or hindering belonging, intercultural interaction and tolerance was analyzed. Differences in interethnic attitudes between “old” immigration cities in middle and northwestern Europe and “new” destinations of migration in Eastern and Southern Europe could be found.

ICEC (Interethnic Coexistence in European Cities) (2013-2016) – Web: <http://icecproject.com/>

International research has shown that urban neighborhoods are still important arenas of social interaction and places of interethnic coexistence. Super-diversity in the neighborhood is a microcosm, mirroring problem constellations at the city scale. Yet problems within diversity-shaped neighborhoods require locally determined solutions. Thus, municipal policies have increasingly taken a territorial focus when addressing social and integration problems through neighborhood-based initiatives. The ICEC project is based on a systematic comparison of the aims, structural features and outcomes of neighborhood development programs in Amsterdam, Vienna and Stockholm. Our main project goal is to initiate an evaluation and exchange of good practice between three distinct European cities.

IMAGINATION (Urban Implications and Governance of CEE Migration in Europe) (2013-2016) – Web: <http://www.project-imagination.eu/>

The project focuses on migration from the new member states of the European Union in Central and Eastern-European (CEE) countries and its implications for urban regions in Western Europe and Turkey. CEE migrants are EU citizens and CEE migration to Western Europe is therefore a kind of internal migration. Some European urban regions are not prepared for this type of migration as most European and national integration policies are dedicated to third-country nationals. IMAGINATION recognizes this fact and therefore raises the question of what the implications of CEE migration for urban cohesion and urban policies are. This information will be included in an inventory of different kinds of spin-offs of IMISCOE network activities (research projects, publication projects, activities in the sphere of education, others). We believe it should be at the center of IMISCOE’s activities to promote these kinds of spin-offs for the member institutes. With the inventory we hope to get a better insight in what these spin-offs have been and how to promote them further in the future.